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SOCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

15c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Sisters clubs to meet in Cup final

General Dayan couldn't have planned it more brilliantly: the 1968 Australia Cup final will be a clash between Sydney and Melbourne Hakoahs, both Jewish-sponsored clubs.

This is the first time that two sister clubs meet in the final of the prestigious Cup.

Sydney Hakoah's presence there was almost to be expected, after their grand local season.

But Melbourne Hakoah caused a considerable surprise by making the final.

Against Prague in the semifinals, they took their few chances extremely well to win on a 4-3 aggregate.

The first leg of the final will be played at Wentworth Park on Sunday and should attract a very sizeable crowd.

The return match will be

played in Melbourne the following Sunday.

So far both Sydney and Melbourne have provided three Australia Cup winners each; whose turn is it to forge ahead in the intercity rivalry?

The Sydney team has already one Australia Cup under its belt: they won it in 1965, beating APIA 2-0 in a replay.

Melbourne Hakoah had never before progressed so far in the series.

Most of what is really pleasing and progressive in our local soccer concerns the juniors, where a tremendous "population explosion" is taking place, largely unnoticed by our higher administration. Staff photographer Tim Pockley's picture shows typical scene from a presentation day where the prizes were handed out by NSW Minister for Justice, Mr. Maddison.



MR. SLAVIA'S SHOCK MOVE

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Big changes and perhaps "fireworks" could be the theme of Slavia's annual general meeting which will be held this Saturday afternoon at the Junction Hotel, St. Kilda.

The biggest name to disappear from the Slavia management is likely to be that of John Oliphant, the club chairman who is also chairman of the State League Management Committee, Board of Management member of Victorian soccer and an executive member of the ASF.

Oliphant is not offering himself for re-election. But before he signs out with Slavia, his final report and that of the year's proceedings could be an "eye opener".

Not the most popular official around the Melbourne scene, one cannot, however, ignore the fact that since he joined them in 1962 and took control, the fortunes of Slavia have dramatically changed for the better.

In fact, almost overnight Oliphant transformed Slavia from a struggling team into one of the best club sides in Australian soccer.

Almost as soon as he joined the club he imported half a dozen good class players from the UK and the impact was soon felt when Slavia won the Australia Cup in 1963.

Since then under his guidance the Slavia success story has developed.

For in this era they have won the Dockerty Cup three times, were beaten finalists on another occasion, won the Ampol Cup, reached the final this year and until this season have usually occupied an elevated position on the State League ladder.

In 1966 they were piped on the post for the league title by SM Hellas.

Over the past five years Slavia have sold more than a complete side of first team players.

For this Oliphant has been heavily slated by some who fail to realise that this was bitter necessity to save the club from "going to the wall".

Oliphant has never given his players away at bargain prices with the result that the Slavia coffers have benefited to the maximum possible extent.

At the same time, as if by magic, through his vast network of contacts overseas he has invariably managed to secure an adequate replacement almost as soon as he transferred a first team player.

Why he is standing down from the Slavia club has not been divulged either by himself or his colleagues.

Late reports which are unconfirmed, suggest that Oliphant will immediately join Juventus once his association with Slavia is finished.

MEXICO 68

JAPAN COULD CAUSE SHOCK

— From LOU GAUTIER —

MEXICO. — Hungary will play Japan and Mexico will meet Bulgaria in the Olympic Games semifinals on Tuesday evening.

The quarterfinals produced some close matches.

Hungary beat Guatemala 1-0 in Guadalajara, Mexico defeated Spain 2-0 at Puebla, Japan knocked out France 3-1 in Mexico City and Bulgaria "outcoined" Israel at Leon, after the match ended in a 1-1 draw after extra time.

The Hungary v. Japan match will be here in Mexico City while the other semifinal at Guadalajara.

Frankly, it's impossible to make an intelligent forecast as forms have been rather topsy-turvy.

The Hungarians and Bulgarians, two of the highest rated teams, are still largely unimpressive while Mexico and Japan keep improving with every match.

Despite this, most experts tip another East European final, the same as four years ago in Tokyo, when Hungary beat Czechoslovakia 2-1.

MARNOCH COLLECTS HIS PRIZE

Alan Marnoch of Hakoah will be presented on Sunday with his prize in the "Soccer World" contest where he finished up as Sydney's Player of 1968.

Mr. Julian Hreglich, Sydney Manager of Flotta Lauro will make the presentation before the start of the Australia Cup final at Wentworth Park.

Marnoch won himself a free return trip to New Zealand on any of the Flotta Lauro ships that operate between the two countries.

FIFA BOSS KEEN ON AUST. VISIT

— By PAUL DEAN —

Both Sir Stanley Rous and Dr. Helmut Kaser, president and secretary of FIFA, are willing to visit Australia shortly.

They would come at the special invitation of the ASF to help re-organise our national body.

The two top FIFA executives told Australian delegates at Guadalajara, Mexico, recently that they would be happy to help in any way.

However, their trip is unlikely to be just a simple social visit.

Both have made it clear that they would only come if their recommendations

received at least rvey sincere and serious consideration.

In 1962 Sir Stanley visited Australia and was largely instrumental in easing our way back to FIFA after years of suspension.

Most ASF officials hope that Sir Stanley's next visit will be at least as fruitful as that of 1962.

Clubs to fill Executive seat

Last week a special meeting of Sydney's First Division clubs endorsed the recent action of the NSW Executive in its bid to change the power-structure within the ASF.

It now seems certain that the Executive will successfully ride the abating storm.

Partly to placate the uneasy clubs, the Executive has decided not to exercise its right and fill the vacant seat by simple appointment.

The seat was vacated by Tom Grimson's resignation.

Nominations have been called and the seat will be filled at the annual general meeting next month by secret ballot.

Some clubs would like to see Sam Fisman elected but Max Garrett, if he stands, is almost certain to poll well enough to come out on top.

Tom Grimson has declared that under the existing circumstances he would not reconsider his decision.

STOP PRESS:

Hungary and Bulgaria will contest the soccer final on Saturday (Sunday morning Sydney time).

In the semifinals Hungary defeated Japan 5-0 (1-0), while Bulgaria eliminated Mexico 3-2 (2-1).

Mexico and Japan will play for third place on Thursday (Friday morning Sydney time).

LOU GAUTIER AT THE OLYMPICS

OLYMPIC GAMES GROUP RESULTS

GROUP A

1. France	2	0	1	7-3	4
2. Mexico	2	0	1	6-4	4
3. Colombia	1	0	2	3-4	2
4. Guinea	1	0	2	4-9	2

Qualifies: France, Mexico.

Results: France-Mexico 4-1, Guinea-Colombia 3-2, Mexico-Colombia 1-0, France-Guinea 3-1, Mexico-Guinea 4-0, Colombia-France 1-0.

GROUP B

1. Spain	2	1	0	4-0	5
2. Japan	1	2	0	4-2	4
3. Brazil	0	2	1	4-5	2
4. Nigeria	0	1	2	4-9	1

Qualifies: Spain, Japan.

Results: Brazil-Japan 1-1, Spain-Nigeria 3-0, Japan-Nigeria 3-1, Spain-Brazil 1-0, Japan-Spain 0-0, Brazil-Nigeria 3-3.

GROUP C

1. Hungary	2	1	0	8-2	5
2. Israel	2	0	1	8-6	4
3. Ghana	0	2	1	6-11	2
4. El Salvador	0	1	2	2-8	1

Qualifies: Hungary, Israel.

Results: Hungary-El Salvador 4-0, Israel-Ghana 5-3, Hungary-Ghana 2-2, Israel-El Salvador 3-1, Hungary-Israel 2-0, El Salvador-Ghana 1-1.

GROUP D

1. Bulgaria	2	1	0	11-3	5
2. Guatemala	2	0	1	6-3	4
3. Czechoslovakia	1	1	1	10-3	3
4. Thailand	0	0	3	1-19	0

Qualifies: Bulgaria, Guatemala.

Results: Bulgaria-Thailand 7-0, Guatemala-Czechoslovakia 1-0, Guatemala-Thailand 4-1, Czechoslovakia-Bulgaria 2-2, Czechoslovakia-Thailand 8-0, Bulgaria-Guatemala 2-1.

PRESS HAILS KAMAMOTO

MEXICO. — Kunishige Kamamoto, Japan's ace centre-forward who thrilled Australian crowds earlier this year, has now attained world star status.

Just as we "discovered" him in Australia, it's now the turn of the world press to heap lavish praise on Japan's brilliant star.

Three goals in the opening match against Nigeria (3-1 for Japan) stamped Kamamoto as one of the tournament's "greats."

Mexican papers sung his praises in every one of their special editions the morning after the match, using such superlatives as "magnifico," "geante" (giant), "Japanese Samurai" and "Asian Scourge."

Kamamoto, against Nigeria, earned himself a huge ovation by the crowd of 15,000 at Puebla.

The spectators were wildly pro-Nigerian (all African nations here enjoy the sympathies of the all crowd) but whenever Kamamoto was in possession he, too, received great applause and cheers.

In fact, he was the only Japanese player who wasn't jeered during a rough match in which the Jap-

anese played it very hard against the lithe, naive and very inexperienced Africans who are above-average ball players, but lack any tactical notion.

Despite the public's anti-Japanese stance, the Japanese team confirmed their great improvement, and from now on are certain to be taken seriously by the Europeans and South Americans.

Some journalists in Mexico are already tipping the Japanese to do a "North Korea" in the 1970 World Cup.

According to Fernand Bouvier of Belgium's "LES SPORTS", who was very impressed with them, the Japanese team will surprise one and all in the World Cup.

When I told him they had to qualify first, he assured me it was a simple formality because he is convinced North Korea will retire permanently from all world sports after their experience at the current Olympics where they once again withdrew because they refused to be called North Korea, insisting on the tag of People's Republic of

RAMSAY HITS IT OFF WITH HOSTS

MEXICO. — Sir Alf Ramsey, here as an observer for the 1970 World Cup, was pleasantly surprised by the Mexican public.

Said Ramsey after attending Mexico v. Colombia and Spain v. Brazil at the Azteca Stadium: "The Mexicans know their football.

Judging from the reactions of the crowd they don't only want their team to win, but also to play well.

"This is a very encouraging sign for the World Cup and seems to indicate that the pessimistic forecasts in some quarters of the British press that England, and other European teams, will

get rough treatment from fanatically pro-Latin American crowds have no foundation."

COLORFUL

If the way the Mexican crowd of 88,000 behaved in the Mexico v. Colombia game is any indication, then I agree with Ramsey.

Sure, the Mexicans are a noisy, volatile and colorful bunch.

Like anybody else, they want their team to win —

but with a difference, which is rare enough these days to be singled out.

Mexican fans also want their team to play well — which is really surprising for a public relatively "new" to soccer.

They were so incensed at the standard of the match against Colombia that for most of the second half they slow-clapped, whistled, jeered and cheered contemptuously whenever a pass found its man — which was indeed a rarity in a most disappointing match.

At the conclusion of the game they bombarded the field with cushions — the ultimate insult in this country, in contrast to Australia where cushion-throwing is apparently a most honorable pastime (remember the hundreds of cushions which sailed on to the Kooyong Tennis Courts to hail the thrilling 3-2 Davis Cup victory of Hoad and Rosewall over the USA in 1953?).

Sir Alf Ramsey, who gave a press conference at the Azteca Stadium after Brazil v. Spain, also said he expected no altitude problems during the World Cup.

"Altitude, he said, "was something the world press media had invented to boost circulation before the Olympic Games."

DIPLOMATIC

Ramsey, who's been in Mexico twice before, heaped praise on the sporting facilities and described the fabulous Azteca Stadium as the "world's most revolutionary and comfortable sporting arena" — a tribute which earned him huge headlines in the local press.

England's World Cup boss would not be drawn to make any predictions for 1970.

All he was prepared to say — and again this tickled the Mexicans pink — was that, in his opinion, Mexico could look forward to a spot in the semifinals with some confidence.

As for England, he was confident, they would do their world title proud and he expected England to feature prominently in the series once again.

Ramsey told the 25 reporters at the press conference he would watch every match at the Azteca Stadium during the Olympics.

The standard of the two matches he had seen since his arrival were "disappointing" — a typical British understatement, I may add.

They were simply terrible!

The Spanish and Brazilian Olympic selections can't hold a candle to their fabulous "A" teams, which isn't surprising really because their selections are among the very few true-blue "lily-whites" here.

World Cup venues set

MEXICO. — FIFA has agreed in principle about the venues of the World Cups up to 1986.

This is the schedule:

In 1970 Mexico (confirmed), 1974 West Germany (confirmed); 1978 Argentina, 1982 Spain, 1986 Yugoslavia.

So this vast organisation, with so many varied interests, is able to plan ahead for 18 years.

By the way, does anyone in Sydney know when the 1969 Ampol Cup begins . . . ?

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REVIEW OF SYDNEY TEAMS '68

By
Lou Gautier

"We'll make the semifinals", was the proud boast of Jim Kelly on Anzac Day when his South Coast United team trounced Croatia 7-1 at Woonona, a fortnight after Canterbury had also conceded seven goals in the provincials' den.

Kelly's optimism at that stage might have been justified because United had recovered from a pathetic slump during which they failed to win a single pre-season Ampol Cup match and after five championship rounds they were knocking at the door of the "first four."

South Coast's enthusiasm, however, was short-lived.

In the space of a few weeks they were forced to face reality and a final seventh placing more in keeping with the talent at their disposal in 1968 and their methods.

Jim Kelly, hailed as a "saviour" when he returned

KELLY-REGIME DIDN'T SET. S. COAST ON FIRE

from the UK in February to take over the team after a two-year absence, wasn't quite the "Messiah" anticipated.

True, his presence in the team and the excitement caused by his return greatly boosted attendances at

United's early home games, but once the bubble burst, spectators stayed away and towards the middle of the season attendances were back to the 1967 level.

Kelly wisely gave up playing after a few weeks to concentrate on coaching.

It was obvious that the years had caught up with this once livewire dynamo who had done so much for soccer in his Australian hey-day.

Unable to marshall his troops in the field, Kelly didn't have much luck from the bench either.

His association with South Coast this year, frankly, was an unhappy one and we can't blame him for choosing not to return next year.

The climax of a troubled season came midway through the season with the unhappy "McGarry affair."

McGarry, hailed by South Coast as "the best-ever British import to settle here," never hit it off with Kelly.

rocked South Coast to its overwhelmingly Australian-born team of teenagers, and without Kelly, reached the semifinals while the much-boomed side this year flopped.

Max Tolson was rarely used to good advantage.

Continually shifted from forward to halfback, his potential was largely wasted, a crying shame because here's a player who could have secured a permanent Australian and NSW berth with better guidance.

NO FLAIR

With the exception of a handful of home matches (against Canterbury, Croatia and APIA), South Coast never excited the imagination under Jim Kelly.

Their play utterly lacked imagination and flair was at a premium in most of their displays.

At Woonona they swung the ball around forcefully, hustling their opponents out of stride to achieve moderate success but in every "away" match they retreated into a defensive shell, providing boring, negative football.

Their tactics were certainly not in keeping with a team whose avowed goal was to spread soccer's gospel in their area.

When Anderson stepped into Kelly's shoes after the Englishman flew home two weeks before the end of the competition, South Coast abandoned their negative tactics.

Against Polonia and Yugal they threw the ball around in care-free fashion, opened up, and thoroughly delighted their supporters.

Anderson's bright, attacking tactics proved United had the players all along to put on far more entertaining displays than the cautious "wait-and-see" football Kelly imposed on them.

Anderson's "work" has not gone unrewarded: he will coach United fulltime in 1969.



McGARRY



ALSTON

ODD EXCUSE

Anderson shocked the soccer world when he got off scot-free on each occasion, the P and D committee offering as an excuse that he had been bred on the rough and tumble of British professional soccer.

Anderson was also most successful as a coach when he took over from Kelly, two weeks before the end of the competition and spurred United on to two consecutive victories.

Denis Alston, their top scorer, was also preceded by a favorable reputation, but he never impressed as being anything but average despite a handful of goals which was sufficient for him to share the Sydney goal-scoring "crown" with teammate McGarry.

He was certainly no better than the Beatties, Patersons, Davies, Carrs and Freemes, none of whom made much headway in 1967.

It is ironic that South Coast in 1966, with an

FAST FREQUENT FANTASTIC



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High-flying Polonia had marvellous year

Unsung and unheralded, a surprisingly consistent Polonia, dismissed contemptuously as prime relegation bait by most fans before the start of the season, almost sneaked into the final play-offs.

There was nothing in their pallid pre-championship form to remotely warrant even the most ardent of their fans to lay a zloty on their chances of finishing in the first half of the table.

Though none of their fans would have gone so far as some critics in considering relegation as a possibility, most of them were convinced deep down that their team would be hard pressed to emulate their already unexpectedly high eighth placing of 1967.

LITTLE HOPE

Polonia, everyone thought, would just plod along in 1968 without playing any significant role one way or the other.

Yet, six months after this gloomy forecast, Polonia wound up a clear-cut sixth, four points away from a berth in the "semis" after looking a "top four" possibility all through.

And if they didn't finish up closer to Prague, and were overtaken by Croatia on the post in the run home, it was only because they irrevocably forfeited their play-off chance in the second last round by losing 2-3 at Woonona.

Their last match, against APIA, was a mere formality, and fielding a depleted side, they were swamped 7-1, almost a repetition of 1967's last round result 8-1, also at Lambert Park.

Despite the 11 goals they conceded in their last three matches, they still managed to end up all square on goal-average.

The really surprising fact was not that they conceded 32 goals, but that their forwards succeeded in scoring 32 — almost twice as many as the great St. George - Budapest which slammed five past APIA in the 1967 Grand Final.

This is the most goals they've ever scored in First Division since 1961, and their sixth place is their best ranking in First Division also since 1961, when they were fifth, and edged out of the semis by Pan Hellenic on goal-average.

A tight, compact squad,

CONSISTENT

Fullbacks Skiba and Filok did all that was expected of them. Never unduly spectacular, they never fell into elementary errors either.

Polonia's defensive web was so well organised that whenever a substitute came in for the injured Filok, who missed nine matches, it didn't make the slightest difference, the defence absorbing the replacement in its stride.

Komoder, no spring chicken either, was second

OBSCURE

Playing deep, as an additional half in most instances, he lacked his earlier sparkle and was seen mostly in an obscure role.

It was left to new signing Povey, a judicious buy from Prague, to infuse much needed pace and speed to a forward-line which was rapidly dying of asphyxia.

Krawiarz this year was more like the Krawiarz of old, but according to Polonia fans we still haven't seen the best of this Polish "B" international, who, they claim, played his better soccer in Australia when Polonia won the Second Division in 1966.

Kulak, who joined the club late in 1967, proved a useful asset by scoring eight goals, some of which were match-winning efforts.

Polonia were often criticised for playing "negative" and "unattractive" football this season.

Well, they were certainly no Manchester United, but we wouldn't go so far as those who tagged them the "least attractive" team in the competition.

The truth of the matter is that they were forced to make the most of what they had available.

There was obviously no room for two "stars" in the United set-up. Something had to give when the two inevitably clashed head-on.

Something did give, indeed. The whole team fell apart once there was talk of both McGarry and Kelly seeking greener pastures.

Though the twosome's differences were partially settled, the air at South Coast was never entirely cleared and the uneasy truce was reflected in the team's performances.

McGarry didn't set the world on fire, despite the "big" reputation which preceded him.

RARE SHOWS

His few outstanding displays were reserved for the Woonona fans.

In Sydney he was never seen to good advantage, in the image of the whole team.

It took Manly to end South Coast's depressing 30-month run of "outs" away from home.

Had they not beaten Manly 2-1 in the third last round, South Coast would still be chasing the victory in Sydney which had eluded them since mid-1966.

Manly also had the distinction of becoming the first team in 1968 to defeat United at Woonona.

The seafarer's shock win actually coincided with the provincials' decline this year.

It came at the height of the McGarry affair which

AUSTRALIA CUP 1968

PATH TO THE FINAL

	Round 1.	Round 2.	Q-finals	S-finals	Final
EAST GROUP:	CROATIA (S) 1 JUVENTUS (C) 0	HAKOAH (S) 1 CROATIA (S) 0			
LEGEND:			HAKOAH (S) 2 ST. GEO.(S) 0		
S-Sydney C-Canberra N-Newcastle P-Perth B-Brisbane M-Melbourne A-Adelaide T-Tasmania	All other teams had a bye	P. HELL.(S) 1 APIA (S) 0	ST. GEO. (S) 5 AUSTRAL (N) 0	PRAGUE (S) 3 P. HELL. (S) 2	AZZURRI (P) 1* HAKOAH (S) 4
WEST GROUP:	HELLAS (A) 1 AZZURRI (P) 2	HELLAS (A) 1 AZZURRI (P) 2	JUVENTUS (M) 1 AZZURRI (P) 2		HAKOAH (S) — HAKOAH (M) —
	HAKOAH (M) 1 LAUNCESTON (T) 0	HAKOAH (M) 4 HUNGARIA (M) 2		PRAGUE (S) 1-2 HAKOAH (M) 1-3	
	All other teams had a bye	JUVENTUS (M) 2 JUST (M) 1	HAKOAH (M) 2 CROATIA (M) 0		
		CROATIA (M) 3 JUVENTUS (A) 1			

* Only one match played, Azzurri forfeited return.

AIRLIFT HELP IN AUS. CUP

Ansett-ANA's traditionally courteous, prompt and highly efficient service has, over the last five years, been part of the Australia Cup story.

All teams use Ansett-ANA when they fly to meet their interstate engagements.

Over the years Ansett-ANA have become Australian soccer's highly valued domestic air carriers.

Apart from local teams, they have also flown all visiting overseas teams from one Australian city to another.

Teams included Manchester United, AS Roma, Scotland, Japan, Chelsea, Torpedo and Cardiff City.

All ASF delegates also use Ansett-ANA when flying on official business.

Several times in the past the airline obligingly put on a special charter aircraft to transport teams within Australia.

Much of the credit for this successful co-operation between the airline and Australian soccer is due to Alan Wood and Barry Galton, both from Ansett-ANA.

SMASH AND GRAB WIN BY HAKOAH

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Down 2-1 until 11 minutes from the end and outplayed for fully half an hour of the second half, Hakoah struck it rich by ramming in two late goals to give them an amazing win and reach the final of the Australia Cup.

Hakoah (Vic.) v.
Prague (NSW) 3-2

Prague, playing copy-book soccer in the second half until their collapse, literally threw the tie away by panicking in defence following a succession of corners by Hakoah.

Before Hakoah's late equaliser, not a single fan in the crowd would have given the Victorian side a ghost of a chance.

The Sydney team was so much superior in all aspects of the game that it was unthinkable they could lose.

However, it's goals that count and Hakoah produced them in a smash and grab finish.

Prague started off in bright fashion and, due to the hesitancy and late tackling by the Hakoah defence, had four free-kicks awarded to them in the first four minutes.

From one of these, just outside the penalty box and square to the touchline, Gauto scored with a swerving shot which completely deceived Henderson.

Prague were playing with the aid of a strong wind and either the wind played tricks with the ball or the Hakoah keeper was blinded by his own defenders.

It was nearly 10 minutes before Hakoah really came into the picture, and with Armstrong desperately looking for an opening, the Prague defence had some anxious moments.

The home side's attacks eventually paid off in the 13th minute when Kurta, with a clear run on the left wing, planted over a great cross and Fry, who had moved in from the opposite wing, was on hand to crack it into the net.

This spurred on Hakoah and when Armstrong neatly

tricked Zeman in midfield and looked set for a clear run on the Prague goal, only timely interception by Tracey saved a dangerous situation.

Hakoah fell away again and Prague took command with Scheinflug playing a deep role in the driver's seat as time and time again he sent inviting passes through the middle for Blanco and Manuel.

The pair, however, never responded well to the many chances set up for them and it was left to winger Hoggart to shoot the Sydney side into the lead once more in the 35th minute.

Hakoah's defence, including their three internationals, Keith, O'Neill and Van Alphen had looked remarkably shaky and even Henderson in goal was under-par.

On the change-over Hakoah had replaced Smith with Douglas.

Prague were now in top gear, playing a brand of soccer which had the professional touch, inspired by that classy veteran Scheinflug.

However, their finishing was not on a par with their outfield play and with some noticeable improvement in the Hakoah defence they found goals were hard to come by.

The Prague superiority in this half was so pronounced that a few of the locals were counting the Sydney players to ensure that they only had 11 on the field.

Fully 15 minutes from the end the visitors pummeled the Hakoah goal with a series of quick-fire attacks.

With time running out, everyone reckoned this was the stage where Victorian

and when Armstrong neatly

soccer shut shop for 1968 as Prague looked likely to have their lead increased.

But how wrong we all were.

Fry, who had been the best Hakoah player by a long chalk, took a succession of corners and from one of these, with 11 minutes to go Stenhouse shot past King to once again bring the teams on level terms.

Three minutes from time, Armstrong snapped up a cross from Douglas and hit a crackerjack of a goal to put Hakoah into the final.

Prague tried desperately in the closing two minutes to pull the game out of the fire.

But at this stage Hakoah pinned them down and had no real trouble hanging on to their lead until the final whistle, to give them a shock win.

For the winners, Fry was outstanding; his crosses, corners and goal brought panic into the Prague defence.

Prague's ace was undoubtedly Scheinflug, who was by far the best man afield.

Line-ups:

Hakoah : Henderson, Keith, O'Neill, Murney, Van Alphen, Stenhouse, Fry, Smith (Douglas), Armstrong, Cameron, Kurta.

Prague: King, Harcombe, Tracey, Blacker, Zeman, Blanco, Gauto, G. Manuel, Scheinflug, Lowry, Hoggart.

Scorers: Hakoah: Fry, Stenhouse, Armstrong.

Prague: Gauto, Hoggart.

Referee: Denis Grant (South Australia).

Attendance: 2,512 (official).

The Australian Soccer Federation

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in the Australia Cup

over the last five years.

AUSTRALIA CUP 1968

SYDNEY HAKOAH IS IN LINE FOR GRAND SLAM

By PAUL DEAN

This is the first time in the history of the Australia Cup that two sister clubs will fight out the final.

They are the Hakoahs of Sydney and Melbourne whose first leg match will be played on Sunday in Sydney.

If it's true that familiarity breeds contempt, it's equally true that sisters can stage awful fights.

And this is what the match may produce — in the good sense of the word.

Hakoah of Sydney seem positively unstoppable: this year they won the Sydney Ampol Cup, the Interstate Ampol final, the Sydney championship as well as the Grand Final.

If they could win this one, they would be rightly hailed as Australia's undisputed champions.

And they can do it, no doubt. First of all, they

have the necessary confidence and poise which only comes with success but without which no team can scale any steep heights.

MATURITY

In whitewashing Prague 3-0 in that vital round-robin match when nothing but a 3-0 win would have given them a place in the final, Hakoah demonstrated strength and tactical maturity.

It's qualities like these that lift a team above the ordinary — even above the good ones.

Does Hakoah play pretty football? Seldom, though the term "pretty" would have to be sharply defined.

If you have in mind the Prague of 1960, Hakoah appear anything but dainty.

But they are much better organised as a team and able to sustain their rhythm for long periods.

Despite the many gifted individuals in the team, Hakoah is not a "star" side.



ALAN MARNOCHE

They have, in their defence, reliable performers such as the safe Fuzes and Hillsdon, the clever Fekete, the solid Marnoch, the effervescent Walsh and the new workhorse of the team, Yaager.

Hakoah have always had the potentially best forward line in Sydney — but that potential wasn't realised until recently when two vastly dissimilar Scottish brothers popped up on the scene almost apologetically for their unglamorous arrival.

BROTHERS

These were, of course, the Rutherford, the lanky Harry on the wing and the elusive, explosive Willie next to him.

These, together with Watkiss, Baartz and Jones, now provide Hakoah with a forward line unmatched in Australia.

Yet, their task won't be an easy one. Faced with Hakoah Melbourne's solid, experienced defence, the Sydney quintet will have to pull a few tricks out of the bag.

The Melbourne defence has one Achilles heel — its relative slowness.

Only Keith can match the Sydney forwards in full flight but neither O'Neill nor Van Alphen are mobile enough to hold out against a fast-operating forward line.

The Melbourne side's midfield pair, Murney and Stenhouse, is a useful duo though Walsh and Yaager should be able to cope with them.

Where Melbourne Hakoah does suffer in comparison is in the forwards.



DANNY WALSH

With the exception of winger Fry, none of the others impressed most Sydney fans. Cameron is a clever ball-player and Armstrong appears dangerous — but Smith, Taylor and Kurta fall very short of the newly introduced "Rutherford standard".

The Sydney team must be favorites, at least in the first match.

In fact, they seem good enough to establish a two-goal lead, if not a bigger one, that would see them comfortably through in the second leg next week.

Aiming for business?



LIKELY TEAMS:

HAKOAH (Sydney) v. HAKOAH (Melb.)

FUZES	1. HENDERSON
FEKETE	2. KEITH
HILLSDON	3. O'NEILL
WALSH	4. MURNEY
MARNOCHE	5. VAN ALPHEN
YAAGER	6. STENHOUSE
H. RUTHERFORD	7. FRY
W. RUTHERFORD	9. ARMSTRONG
WATKISS	8. DOUGLAS
BAARTZ	10. CAMERON
JONES	11. KURTA

Reserves:

WILSON	Reserves:
STEWART	WALKER
GARDINER	SMITH

THOMAS

Referee: M. O'MALLEY (SA).

Two cities have shared winners

Hakoah of Sydney have an excellent chance to become the first team to win the Australia Cup for the second time.

And Fuzes, Hillsdon, Fekete, Walsh and Marnoch may receive their second winners' medals.

Hakoah won the Cup in 1965.

So far six series have been held, with both Sydney and Melbourne providing three different winners.

In 1962 the final was an all-Sydney affair with Yugal scoring a runaway 8-1 win over Budapest.

The Yugal team was: Spiegel, Ringhoff, Mucillo, Lazarevic, Stojanovic, Dunaj, Aranyi, Schwarz, Nincevic, Jelisavcic, Pacanic.

Ninaus and Reid scored for Hakoah, Wong for APIA.

In 1966 APIA's third final appearance was crowned with success when they defeated Hakoah 2-0 in yet another all-Sydney final.

APIA's team was: Rorke, Van Blerk, Nuttall, Hughes, Sambrook, Bottalico, Giacometti, Campana, Watkiss, Blue, Kerklaan.

Scouts were Campana and Kerklaan.

Last year's winner was another Melbourne team, Melbourne HSC, beating APIA 4-3 in an exciting game.

Their team was: Surma, Fowler, Gregal, Shanks, Scott, Connelly, McCann (Kurta), Abonyi, Stoffels, Grenouille, Myers.

Scouts: Abonyi (3), Stoffels, Blue, Watkiss and Shanks (o.g.).

SYDNEY PROGRAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

AUSTRALIA CUP FINAL

(First leg)

Hakoah (NSW) v. Hakoah (Vic.) — Wentworth Park, 3 p.m.



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SYDNEY AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE FOR SEASON 1969

Applications close on November 27, 1968.

Inquiries with the Secretary, Box 306, P.O., Broadway, Sydney, 2007.

As usual, this year's Australia Cup entries flew

ANSETT-ANA

when travelling interstate for their matches.

The teams this year included:

- Hakoah (Melbourne) ● Launceston (Tas.)
- Juventus (Adelaide) ● Azzurri (Perth)
- Latrobe (Brisbane) ● Prague (Sydney)
- Hakoah (Sydney) ● Croatia (Sydney)



ROUND THE WORLD

Bond for agents

The UEFA — European branch of the FIFA — has laid down the law which will from now on regulate the activities and operations of football agents. One stringent rule requires all licensed agents to deposit a guarantee bond of about \$5,000 with UEFA to cover any claims made against him.

Nomen est omen?

Those violently opposed to "foreign" names in Australian soccer please note: in England's Lancashire Levenshulme League one club is called Inter Gately and another Medlock Dynamos, probably in honor of the two famous Continental clubs.

New book out

"Mat... United... and me" is the title of the recently published biography of Manchester Uniteds trainer Jimmy Murphy who has been working with Busby since 1946, establishing a unique and wonderfully fruitful partnership at Old Trafford.

With Irish abandon

Anybody in Europe anxious to see lots of goals should watch Northern Ireland soccer. For the second time running, the Irish League has topped the goalscoring average per match in Europe.

Canada prepares

There are three chief candidates for the post of national coach in Canada: Toronto's coach Ladisla Kubala, former Tottenham keeper Bill Brown, also working in Toronto and ex-English professional Peter Dinsdale, coach of Vancouver Royals. The Canadians are preparing to meet the USA and Bermuda in their World Cup elimination matches.

One brainy idea

For the first time ever, none of the 92 English Football League clubs protested about the season's draw. The reason: it was entrusted to a computer. Maybe not all clubs are totally happy — but none can claim that the electronic brain victimised them...

Shopping trip

Alfredo Di Stefano, now back in his native Argentina, is spending some weeks in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland trying to sign on teams for the annual Mare del Plate tournament. Di Stefano is now the technical director of River Plate in Buenos Aires.

Money at the bottom?

In West Germany, just like in France, it's better business to be a top Second Division than bottom First Division club. The latest to prove this were Kickers Offenbach, who last season made a tidy profit of \$100,000 — still in Second Division.

Spanish quicksand

A new Spanish "record" may be established soon: Espanol Barcelona, after four unhappy rounds — two meagre points — are likely to sack their coach, former Hungarian star Jeno Kalmar.

Don Revie, manager of Leeds United, has signed a new, seven-year contract with the club that will expire in 1975. Revie receives £7,000 a year — plus bonuses and perks. No doubt Leeds' recent successes in the Leagues Cup and European Fair Cities Cup prompted the club to tie down the brilliant manager for a long term.

- Real are again in top form — largely due to the impeccable displays and goalscoring ability of Amancio who has netted six of their nine so far.

- The Portuguese FA has appointed Otto Gloria and Jauca as co-managers of the national side.

- Charleroi SC are the leaders of the Belgian championship. They are trained by former Czechoslovakian star Sobotka, 57, who was with FC Basel when they played in Sydney a few years ago.

- Argentinian born De Bourgoing has transferred from Bordeaux to Beziers in France.

- Soviet national team boss Yakoushin has been sacked and the job was once again given to Gavril Katchalin.

- Since 1948, Helmut Fritz of Ludwigshafen has refereed over 1,000 matches in West Germany as well as 30 internationals.

- Helenio Herrera, whose AS Roma got off to a bad start in the Italian league with a home defeat to Fiorentina, is desperately searching for some strikers. He has his eyes on the Juventus winger Menichelli — who was born in Rome anyway.

- Luis Del Sol, the veteran Spaniard on Juventus' books, is now the midfield general of his team.

- UT Arad are the surprise leaders of the Rumanian championship after ten rounds.

- Walter Zeman, until recent years the brilliant goalkeeper of Rapid Vienna, is now the assistant coach of his former club.

- From July 1, 1969, it will be illegal to sell any alcoholic drink at Swiss First Division matches.

- First Division Yugoslav team Hajduk Split will be the training partner of Switzerland on November 6 at Zurich.

Life in the army

Partizan Belgrade will lose their two stars, Damjanovic and Mihajlovic who will join Sarajevo captain Fazlagic: all three will have to spend a few months in the army. Meanwhile, two other Partizan stars, Rasovic and Kovacevic have just finished similar military stints.

- Dutch international star Johann Cruyff is emulating George Best: he has a beatle cut.

- The technical director of Yugoslavia's Vojvodina, Boskov, had been offered the position of national coach in Rumania.

- AC Naples have forbidden their players to give press interviews or even to make statements. The fine for any breach may be \$500.

- Newly promoted Banska Bystrica caused a major surprise in Czechoslovakia by defeating the leaders, Trnava 1-0.

- So far this season Jimmy Greaves of Tottenham has scored two hat-tricks.

- Hamburg's veteran Uwe Seeler is still in great form: he has scored seven of his team's 17 goals in nine games.

- Brilliant young inside-forward Kindvall has scored three of Sweden's five goals against Norway in their 5-0 win at Stockholm's Rasunda Stadium, watched by 30,000 spectators.

- Manchester United's "Busby Babe," Francis Burns had to undergo a cartilage operation.

- Real Madrid will play France on November 20 in Paris' Parc des Princes stadium.

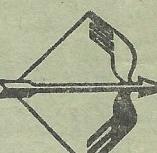
- The French junior team will play in Canada next April in a tourney against Russia, Rumania, Inter Milan and CF Barcelona.

- Pele has signed a new \$150,000 contract — but not with his club. The money will be paid for publicity work by a soft drink company.

FAIR CITIES CUP Draw for Round II.

Victoria Setubal v. Lyon; OFK Belgrade v. Bologna; Aberdeen v. Zaragoza; AIK Stockholm v. Hannover; Juventus v. Frankfurt; Panathinaikos v. Atletico Bilbao; Aris Saloniiki v. Ujpest; Chelsea v. DWS Amsterdam; Hamburg v. Slavia Prague; Sporting Lisbon v. Newcastle; Waregem (Belg.) v. Legia Warsaw; Goztepe (Turkey) v. Pitesti (Rum.); Leeds or St. Liege v. Napoli or Grasshoppers; Rostock v. Fiorentina; Rangers v. Dundalk; Hibernians v. Lok. Leipzig.
The round must be completed by November 13.

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* Superveloce.

Some can't count

Albania's Tirana players were somewhat confused at the end of their recent home match against Torino in the European Cupwinners' Cup. Tirana won 1-0 — and the players stayed on the field, wanting to play extra time. Torino won the first match 3-1 but the Albanians thought that goals scored away count double in any case, not just when the aggregate is tied.

Reward or punishment?

Rudolf Vytlacil, Rapid Vienna's coach, has offered a unique reward for his players: they will be allowed to take along their wives to Norway when Rapid plays Trondheim in the next round of the European Cup.

German conservatism

West Germany's Bayern Munchen have played their first eight matches with an unchanged team. However, they are still far from the record: in the 1966-67 season Moenchengladbach went through 14 successive matches without a change in the team.

American acclaim

Phil Woosnam, the former Welsh star, is hailed as the best coach in the USA. Woosnam's team, Atlanta Chiefs won the 1968 American championship and, last June, gained tremendous prestige by beating visiting English League champions Manchester City 3-2.

Polish boom

Soccer is booming in Poland. This season the average attendance has been 18,200 per match in the First Division. After eight rounds it was again Gornik Zabrze who led the parade.

The Swiss don't miss?

Last season, 18-year-old Tommy McGill, of Annbank, Ayrshire, was a useful inside-forward with Ayr Albion youth team. In May, Albion went over to Switzerland to play in a youth tournament. In one of the games, Tommy impressed the manager of Aarau, a Swiss Second Division club. Result — last week Tommy flew back to Switzerland with a football contract in his pocket and the promise of a job on the side.

SCOREBOARD

INTERNATIONALS: Bulgaria v. Turkey 2-0 (Istanbul); Rumania v. Poland 1-0 (Iassi); Belgium v. Finland 6-1 (Varese); Sweden v. Norway 5-0 (Stockholm).

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP FINAL: Manchester United v. Estudiantes de la Plata (Argentina) 1-1. Estudiantes win on 2-1 aggregate.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Slovakia v. Sparta 1-0; Kosice v. Ostrava 1-1; Teplice v. Inter 2-2; Dukla v. Trnecin 2-0; Pardubice v. Zilina 1-1; Banska v. Trnava 1-0; Slovan v. Loko-motiva 0-0. **Table:** Slovan, Trnava 8 pts., Ostrava, Loko-motiva 7 pts.

SWEDEN: Gais v. Goteborg 0-9; Sirius v. Sandviken 3-0; Landskrona v. Joenkoeping 1-1.

SWITZERLAND: FC Zurich v. Lausanne 5-1; Chaud-de-Fonds v. Winterthur 3-0; Young Boys v. Bienna 6-2; Lugano v. FC Basel 1-0; Servette v. Bellinzona 1-2; Luzern v. Grasshoppers 1-2.

WEST GERMANY: Hertha Berlin v. Kickers Offenbach 1-0; Eintracht Frankfurt v. FC Nurnberg 3-0; Schalke 04 v. Moenchengladbach 1-1; Eintracht Braunschweig v. Borussia Dortmund 4-3; Hambuger SV v. Hannover 96 1-4; VfB Stuttgart v. Werder Bremen 2-2; Munchen 1860 v. FC Kaiserslautern 1-0; Alemannia Aachen v. Bayern Munchen 2-4; Duisburg v. FC Köln 0-0.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star v. Olimpija 6-0; Dynamo v. Proleter 3-2; Celik v. Hajduk 3-3; Rijeka v. Zagreb 0-1; Vardar v. Bor 2-0; Maribor v. Partizan 2-0; Velez v. OFK 2-1; Vojvodina v. Zeljeznaric Progresul 0-1; UTA v. Polit Velez, Sarajevo, all 11 pts.

RUMANIA: Univ. Craiova v. Farul 3-1; TG Mures v. Vaganul Arad 1-0; Rapid v. Pitesti 1-0; Petroseni v. Dynamo Buc. 0-0; Univ. Cluj v. Progresul 0-1; UTA v. Polit Velez, Sarajevo, all 11 pts.

ALITALIA: See your Travel Agent, Alitalia, or Trans-Australia Airlines — Watch Alitalia's "Best Player Contest" in La Fiamma.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

TAKIS LOUKANIDIS left for home last weekend. The night before Pan Hellenic gave him a farewell party — lasting till 6 a.m. Loukanidis said before departing that he would be keen to return next season — as a coach.

The annual general meeting of PAN HELLENIC will be held on Christmas Eve — December 24.

* * *

CORINTHIANS hope to sign an English forward who played in the reserve grades of Luton Town and St. Mirren.

* * *

Pan Hellenic players had a lucrative season: all first graders EARNED a minimum \$2600 this year — some a great deal more.

* * *

The HAKOAH ball last Saturday at the Chevron was one of the most glittering events in the Sydney soccer calendar.

* * *

The EASTERN SUBURBS ASSOCIATION office bearers for 1969: President, H. Gully; Senior vice-president, E. Small; Junior vice-president, D. Robertson Secretary, L. Hoy (4 Noble Court, Mascot Pde., Eastlakes, 663-6108); Assistant secretary: A. Cohn; Registrar, D. Richards; Treasurer: A. Cohn (pro tem.), Publicity officer, D. Tinyow.

The former secretary, W. Charr, resigned owing to ill health.

* * *

Pan Hellenic's testimonial to SOTOS PATRINOS will be at Wentworth Park, on November 10. Pan Hellenic will play the Patrinos XI, which will include Watkiss, Bottalico, Scheinflug, Giacometti and others.

* * *

Both South Coast and Auburn are reportedly interested in Pan Hellenic's PETER LARAMAN.

* * *

JOHN SMEE, Corinthians right half-back will not be playing for the club next season as he plans to leave for England next February.

* * *

Pan Hellenic had their first FINANCIALLY successful years in First Division in 1968, enabling them to wipe more than half their bank overdraft.

* * *

St. George-Budapest are hopeful that their new coach, FERENC AROK, will be able to come to Sydney directly from Mexico where he is attending the Olympics.

* * *

Prague's young GARY WILCOX presented the prizes last Saturday at the Gladesville-Ryde junior gala day. Wilcox is himself a product of the Association.

* * *

POLONIA-NS will hold its annual general meeting on Sunday, November 3.

* * *

ALISTER MAC ILROY who played for North Sydney-Inter before he went to New Zealand, is back in Australia and will be playing for his old club next season.

* * *

Nearly 500 PEOPLE turned out last Sunday for the Melita Eagles annual picnic-barbecue held at Prince Edward Park, on the banks of the Woronora River. Entertainment included boat races and a girls' football match which ended with the referee being thrown into the river.

* * *

Four NEW PLAYERS may be brought from Poland to strengthen Polonia-North Side next season. On the debit side, centre-half Dzialach is seriously thinking of retiring.

* * *

At its annual general meeting, HORNSBY-NORTH END has decided to pay its first grade players a training fee of \$2 a week from the start of the 1969 season. Light training starts in a week's time at the new ground in Jenner Road.

* * *

THEO VAN DEN BROEK has been appointed as the new club coach for Hornsby North End. R. Barman will coach the third grade and R. Quimby the juniors.

* * *

B. PARTRIDGE, former secretary of Hornsby North End was appointed as Vice-President of the club.

* * *

The Nepean Association is negotiating with a TOP COACH, in the hope that he will become full time coach to the under-14, 15 and 16 Inter-District teams for 1969.

* * *

FOLLOWING a successful BAR-BECUE held at the new ground in Jenner Road, West Pennant Hills, Hornsby North End is planning another barbecue and a water-ski outing.

* * *

A bid by the Nepean Association to bring together Blacktown United, Penrith SC and St. Mary's SSC, to form one team, NEPEAN UNITED, has failed. Penrith were agreeable, St. Mary's SSC turned it down, and Blacktown await the result of their AGM before giving an answer.

WITH THE AMATEURS

St. George is going places

By KEITH GILMOUR —

Never in the history of St. George have their juniors had such a great season, according to Association secretary Sid Tanner.

With a close connection to the St. George Association which reaches back to the early 1930's, Tanner should know.

The district could only muster 74 teams and 1,036 players in 1964, this year 211 teams and over 3,200 players took the field.

This year St. George teams visited many parts of the State:

• The Under-18s turned out at the big Forbes Carnival, and took the title by defeating Canberra in the final.

• The Under-16s went to Lismore, and retained the Park Howard Trophy.

• Under-13s defended the Park Howard Trophy for their grade at Armidale, with a win over Gunnedah in the final.

Another Saints' player, Phillip Howe, travelled even further as a member of the NSW Amateur under-16 side on its New Zealand tour.

Closer to home, St. George junior clubs were not found wanting when it came to school promotion.

They passed over to local schools \$400 worth of footballs and equipment.

And the big news for 1969 is that Laurie Hegyes will be in control of the Under-14, 15 and 16 St. George Inter-District representative teams.

In major fixtures, St. George had two teams in Metropolitan Championship finals, and the Under-10s won the Sydney KO series.

SUCCESSES

Sans Souci club won two Champion of Champions grades against the best junior club teams in Sydney, and their Under-21 team reached the semifinals of the Robertson Trophy.

Their Under-8 unit won their premiership, the Wendouree Shield, and the St. George KO Carnival played on Hurstville Oval on Sundays, going on to win the Champion of Champions final with a 1-0 win over Padstow RSL.

Yet, for all that success, it wasn't Sans Souci that won the BMC Club Championship Trophy.

This went to Peakhurst United, a junior club only four years old, which fielded a remarkable 32 teams!

Peakhurst was not the only club to show growth,

even in its own surroundings.

Forest Rangers, one year old, put 11 teams on the field, and Lugarno-Peakhurst 13 teams.

Here is a total of 56 teams in the short stretch of Forest Rd. from King George's Rd. down.

Twenty-five premiership competitions were conducted, and here are the winners from seniors to Under 10s.

A grade: Sans Souci.

U/18: Sans Souci.

U/16: Arncliffe RSL.

U/15: Lugarno-Peakhurst.

U/14: Bexley.

U/13A: Peakhurst United.

U/13B: Forest Rangers.

U/12A: Peakhurst.

U/12B: Carss Park.

U/11A: Lugarno-Peakhurst.

U/11B: Bexley North.

U/10A: Lugarno-Peakhurst.

U/10B: Carss Park.

U/10C: Bexley.

The Association management is delighted that the \$250,000 development for the St. George Police Boys club in Bay Street, Rockdale will not interfere with the McCarthy Reserve ground, which will remain in full use for soccer.

The juniors have a very close liaison with the social club, the St. George-Budapest Soccer Club Ltd. at Mortdale.

Three directors hold very close junior connection, Eric Lewis, Alan Stapleton, and Bill Wrodnin.

The Hurstville and Rockdale Councils are both forming sports committees to assist in ground allocation and development, and St. George officials have welcomed this progressive step with open arms.

Away from the football fields, it was pleasing to see Association president A. Gardiner take second place whilst representing Australia in the Open Sea Yachting Series.

A natural flow of young players is moving from the juniors to the senior club.

George and Barry Harris, Geoff Morgan and Paul Mansfield, for example, are all Sans Souci products.

The stage is set for an even bigger year for St. George in 1969 — the revival of the St. George-Budapest First Division club, and another bumper year for the juniors.

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Council keen

The new set-up for the club is bound to create a few problems too and the first and foremost would be to make arrangement for a new ground.

There are two grounds mentioned which may be suitable for their need — Monash Oval and Westminster Park, both in Ryde Road — but both are unenclosed and require development.

It is believed that Ryde Council is keen to assist in this matter.

To strengthen their three sides, Corinthians will rely on the talented juniors in the Gladesville Junior Association.

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FLOTTA LAURI

MELBOURNE PAGE...

EDITED BY BOB LOW

MIDDLE PARK TEAM IS NOT WITHOUT CHANCE

In the all-Hakoah 1968 Australia Cup final (first leg) match in Sydney this Sunday, the Victorian side face a tough assignment against the top side of New South Wales soccer.

But irrespective of patriotism, the Middle Park side cannot be written off

Snippets

Eddie Sacco (fullback) and Don Hodgson (utility) have, between them, almost 20 years' service with George Cross with Sacco the longest serving of the pair, having chalked up 11 seasons with the club.

This past season Eddie, a former Coburg player, only made a few fleeting appearances with the first team while Don, who was secured from Moreland nine years ago had retired midway through the year then was brought back by the Cross for their last few games.

Both players have given great service to the club, especially Hodgson who represented both Victoria and Australia.

It seems on the cards that both may have made 1968 their "swan song" in State League.

* * *

Completely out of the picture since the start of the season following a disagreement with Hakoah, Mike O'Hara, the most controversial goal-keeper ever to pull a jersey over his head in Victorian soccer has for the latter part of the season been playing third fiddle to Sandy Henderson who deposed him in the first team.

And this despite the fact that lately O'Hara has been playing in the Hakoah reserve side.

Understudy to Henderson and a regular member of the first team Hakoah squad has been Johnny Walker who was the club's first team 'keeper until the arrival of O'Hara two years ago.

O'Hara, who kept goal for English League side Swindon Town at the age of 17 and has played for Victoria appears to have been badly advised in trying to get a free and unconditional release from the Middle Park club who brought him to the forefront in Australian soccer.

At one time this season Juventus and Slavia were both interested in securing his transfer.

When the new transfer season opens, Mike O'Hara could be one of the first to move.

ST. ALBANS SOCCER CLUB

Position Vacant: Coach

Applications for the position of coach are invited by St. Albans Soccer Club, a leading First Division side and may be forwarded to Secretary, 27 Alfrieda Street, St. Albans, before November 30, 1968.

Applicants are requested to give full details of soccer career, remuneration expected and whether available for coaching only or as player-coach.

ADELAIDE NEWS

VIC. TEAMS WELCOME

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Lack of suitable grounds is the real reason behind the cancellation of the proposed Adelaide visit of the Melbourne Lion team. Lion were to have played West Adelaide Hellas and USC Lion on October 25 and 26.

Last week, Bob Low suggested that the games were called off for "political" purposes.

The facts are, however, that Hindmarsh Stadium is undergoing a face-lift to bring it to peak condition for the 1969 Ampol night series which begins in January.

The stadium is in need of replanting because of Adelaide's freak winter which played havoc with the playing surface.

Budapest defeated Austria 3-2 last Saturday in the first of a two-legged night series elimination at Hindmarsh.

That was the last fixture at headquarters for the year and the ground repairs began on Monday.

Olympic Sports Field is now being used for athletics and Norwood and

Thebarton Ovals have been taken over for cricket.

The SA Federation has ruled that the second night series elimination between Budapest and Austria must be completed by next week.

The game will in all probability be played at Hanson Reserve or Bailey Reserve.

Since none of the top grounds were available, USC Lion and WA Hellas officials deemed it wise to cancel the Melbourne teams visit.

With the Lion game cancelled, WA Hellas discussed the possibility of inviting SM Hellas to play in Adelaide on Saturday (October 26).

SM Hellas, unlike Lions, were reported to be agreeable to play only one game on Saturday.

At press time, however, nothing definite had been arranged, again because of the difficulty in obtaining a suitable venue.

Woodville West and Hanson Reserve were suggested as possible venues, but Hellas have yet to contact the clubs which control these grounds.

Who's afraid of the little wolf?

What was previously only a mild suspicion has been verified — Australian Rules football is frightened of soccer in South Australia.

Doug Thomas, an eminent commentator and former rules player, made this fact public on Channel Seven's "World of Sport" program last Sunday.

"I'm a football supporter and as such I'm frightened of soccer," said Thomas, who was backed in his alarmingly insular view by fellow commentator, Ian Day.

"Soccer should be kept where it belongs — in the parklands," said Thomas.

The Channel 7 sporting panel were discussing the current controversy concerning the future of the Adelaide Oval.

"If the SA Cricket Association and the National Football League don't come to terms, football will vacate Adelaide Oval."

"If that happens, soccer will be in so fast it will make your head spin," said Thomas, "and we don't want that."

"World of Sport" compere, Gordon Schwartz, didn't agree that soccer belonged to the parklands.

"The SA Federation has Hindmarsh and Olympic Sports Field — two fine stadiums," said Schwartz.

Then Thomas enlightened

his viewers with another pearl of wisdom when he said:

"One in 10 of the population is a 'New Australian' and they should be converted to our game with soccer kept in the background."

Another member of the panel, Bert Day (Sporting Editor 5AD) said, "If you're so frightened of soccer, then there must be something wrong with football."

Surely no firmly established sport should fear good, healthy competition.

Soccer was featured regularly on "World of Sport" until the beginning of 1967 when a change of format meant the end of "minor" sport coverage on the program.

The reason advanced by program manager, Lynton Taylor, for dropping soccer was that it had only a "minimal following".

If this is correct, Doug Thomas and Ian Day can calm their fears.

It would be a fine touch of human relations, however, if they would try to live and let live.

As a fellow Australian I'm ashamed of their attitude.

I wonder how either would react if one of their sons decided to play soccer?

TABLES—NEXT WEEK

Next week we publish all the final competition tables from Victoria.

"Soccer News", which would have normally published them, ceased operating just before the end of the season.

Having cleaned up all the major honors in Victorian soccer this season, Croatia will suffer a blow with the return home to Scotland on November 18 of centre forward and scoring ace, Billy McIntyre.

The player told the club of his intentions after their Dockerty Cup win over SM Hellas in the replayed Dockerty Cup final.

Family ties and home-sickness by his wife are believed to be the reasons for his return home and it seems there is only a fifty-fifty chance

Cramped and low, the change room is right next to the boiler-house and the fumes forced the Prague players to strip early and move outside and get some air.

It must be emphasised that Venglos made his remarks before the game started.

Several State League sides have similarly complained about this when playing either SM Hellas or Hakoah at Middle Park.